

# Early Learning in Washington State:



***"Early learning is the new frontier  
in education."***

***-Washington State Governor Christine O. Gregoire***

# Early Learning in Washington State:

**Amazing new research builds public and legislative awareness of critical birth to 5 years**

- **Link made from early childhood education to success in school**
- **Conservative and ambivalent legislators have an epiphany-- *early learning matters***



# 2006 – Building the Policy Framework



**ThrivebyFive™**  
THE WASHINGTON EARLY LEARNING FUND

**1. Business and philanthropic leaders strongly advocate for early learning in legislative session.**

## Public-Private Partnership

- 2. Research a key factor.**
- 3. Result is overwhelming bi-partisan support for creation of a new Department of Early Learning and Thrive by Five.**

 The Annie E. Casey Foundation

 EDUCARE

 Foundation for Early Learning

 KIRLIN

 DENTAL DIRECT  
Washington Dental Service  
Foundation  
*Commitment Advocates for Oral Health*



 bezos family foundation

 Talaris  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

 BOEING

 BILL & MELINDA  
GATES foundation

 Talaris

 MEDINA  
FOUNDATION

 Russell

 THE BOUNCE  
LEARNING NETWORK

 THE PAUL G. ALLEN  
FAMILY foundation

 United Way  
United Way of King County

 UNITED WAY OF KING COUNTY

 Ackerley  
FOUNDATION

 W.K. KELLOGG FOUNDATION

 SOCIAL  
VENTURE  
PARTNERS

 CLEARCHANNEL

# **Key components to Washington's** **success:**

**Strong leadership from the Governor, business, philanthropy, research institutions, early learning advocates and the legislature**

**Bi-partisan support**

**Clear and convincing research that is understandable to the public and to legislators**



# Including Early Learning in the Definition of Basic Education:

- **Disadvantaged young children need supplemental instruction in preschool so they will later achieve in the regular Program of Basic Education**
- **HB 2261 includes development of a Program of Early Learning (Washington Head Start) that would be part of Basic Education.**
- **Focused on at-risk children ages 3-4**

